

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024238  
ORIGIN AF-10

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CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /040 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BANJUL IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 024238

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SHUM, XA

SUBJECT: ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

REF: STATE 022819

1. FOLLOWING IS FINAL TEXT OF ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS  
REPORT FOR YOUR COUNTRY FOR PRESENTATION TO HOST GOVERNMENT  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS:

BEGIN TEXT:

THE GAMBIA

THE GAMBIA IS ONE OF THE FEW FUNCTIONING MULTI-PARTY  
DEMOCRACIES IN AFRICA. RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS  
GUARANTEED IN THE CONSTITUTION AND OBSERVED IN PRACTICE.  
THE GAMBIA IS A STRONG BACKER OF U.S. INITIATIVES TO  
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ESTABLISH MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND IS A  
FIRM SUPPORTER OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES. IN AFRICA,  
IN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE OAU AND THE  
COMMONWEALTH, AND IN THE UNITED NATIONS, THE GAMBIA HAS  
BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF THOSE NATIONS INSISTING ON  
RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

1. RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON, INCLUDING  
FREEDOM FROM:

A. TORTURE

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF TORTURE IN THE GAMBIA.

B. CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

THERE IS NO SUCH PUNISHMENT IN THE GAMBIA, NOR ARE THERE  
ANY REPORTS OF ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE.

C. ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT

THERE HAVE BEEN NO INSTANCES OF ARBITRARY ARREST OR  
IMPRISONMENT.

D. DENIAL OF FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL

FAIR PUBLIC TRIALS ARE GUARANTEED BY LAW AND PROVIDED  
IN PRACTICE.

E. INVASION OF THE HOME

THE HOME IS INVIOABLE, BOTH IN LAW AND IN PRACTICE.

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2. GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES RELATING TO THE FULFILLMENT  
OF SUCH VITAL NEEDS AS FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE  
AND EDUCATION

ALL GOVERNMENT POLICIES ARE TAILORED TO RESPOND TO  
THE NEEDS OF THE POOR. IN THIS RURAL, AGRICULTURAL  
NATION WITH A SMALL POPULATION AND LIMITED RESOURCES,  
THE NEEDS OF THE POOR ARE THE MAJOR FOCUS OF  
GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY.

3. RESPECT FOR CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES,  
INCLUDING:

A. FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, SPEECH, PRESS, RELIGION AND  
ASSEMBLY.

THE GAMBIA'S RECORD AND PRACTICE RESPECTING THESE  
RIGHTS RANK AMONG THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

B. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY, FOREIGN  
TRAVEL AND EMIGRATION

THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS WHATSOEVER ON THESE FREEDOMS.

C. FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

THERE IS FULL FREEDOM, UNDER THE LAW AND IN PRACTICE, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS. THE NATION'S ELECTION OF APRIL 4-5, 1977 WAS HOTLY AND OPENLY CONTESTED BY THE FOUR GAMBIAN POLITICAL PARTIES. OPPOSING POLITICAL VIEWS ARE BROADCAST AND PUBLISHED FREELY. THERE IS UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFRAGE.

4. GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE AND RECORD REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
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THERE HAS NEVER BEEN TO OUR KNOWLEDGE AN ALLEGATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE GAMBIA OR A REQUEST BY ANY INTERNATIONAL BODY TO INSPECT OR INVESTIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN THE GAMBIA. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE LIKELY TO RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY TO ANY REASONABLE REQUEST OF THIS KIND.

END TEXT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, ANNUAL REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 30 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT  
**TAGS:** SHUM, XA  
**To:** BANJUL  
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Sheryl P. Walter  
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